THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) to (c) The Government and RBI closely monitor the economic developments in the country and internationally on a continuous basis, and need based measures are taken from time to time, keeping in view the financial and overall economic implications. To arrest the decline in exports, the Government/RBI announced stimulus packages including the announcements made in the Budget 2009-10 and in the Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2009-14 to provide support. All eligible exporters are entitled for the benefit as per the laid down criterion specified against each of the relief measures, to be extended by the concerned departments/institutions. FTP, 2009-14 with details of FTP measures and the eligibility criterion has been laid in Parliament and is also available in public domain on website *http://dgft.gov.in*.

Further need based measures would be taken, as may be required.

Extension of time to developers of SEZs

2948. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of Special Economic Zone (SEZ) proposals cleared by Government, till date;

(b) how many developers have asked for extension of time to execute the SEZ proposals; and

(c) the Government's policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 570 proposals out of which 346 SEZs have been notified. A total of 101 SEZs have commenced export.

(b) and (c) Requests for extension of validity period beyond the initial period of three years have been received from developers citing the global economic slowdown/delay in getting requisite clearances etc., as grounds for extension. Having regard to the provisions of the SEZ Act, 2005 and SEZ Rules, 2006 and the grounds cited, the Board of Approval (BOA) have permitted extension of validity of 89 SEZs beyond the initial 3 years subject to the same terms and conditions as envisaged in the original approval. Requests for extension are considered on merits.

7th Ministerial Conference of WTO at Geneva

2949. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether India participated at the 7th Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization held in Geneva recently to review the WTO's functioning titled 'The WTO, the Multilateral Trading System and the Current Global Economic Environment';

(b) if so, whether India was able to push for major reforms at the WTO with regard to dealing with regulation of multilateral trade between nations, handling trade disputes, monitoring National Trade Policies and providing technical assistance and training to developing countries; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) Yes. Sir. India participated in the Seventh Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) held in Geneva from 30 November to 2 December, 2009.

(b) and (c) At the Ministerial conference, India expressed its deep interest in the continued growth and credibility of the WTO. To this end, India has recently made a submission to the General Council of the WTO containing, *inter alia*, proposals on systemic issues to improve the functioning and efficiency of the WTO as a rules-based system. These proposals are designed to improve the capacity of WTO to provide better services to its Members without in any way diluting its fundamental deliberative structure based on consensus. The proposal seeks to enhance transparency, inclusively and efficiency. There has been widespread support for these proposals in the WTO.

The importance of technical assistance and capacity building for developing countries and LDCs was stressed by Members. Participants also underlined the value of the Dispute Settlement System and the need for it to be made more responsive to the needs and circumstances of poorer and smaller Members.

SEZs converted into commercial real estate operations

2950. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) approved by Government since 2004-05, State-wise, indicating the size of land acquired by each and volume of investment committed, if any;

(b) the current status of implementations of the SEZs;

(c) whether Government has been seized of the fact that several of these SEZs have converted into commercial real estate operations in deviation of the SEZ policy of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the steps taken against the developers of such SEZs who are found to be deviating from the norms/rules prescribed by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ANAND SHARMA): (a) and (b) In addition to seven Central Government SEZs and 12 State/Private Sector SEZs set up prior to the enactment of SEZ Act, 2005, formal approval has been accorded to 570 proposals out of which 346 SEZs have been notified. A Statement containing state-wise break up of land involved in notified SEZs is given in the Statement (*See* below). A total of 101 SEZs are already exporting. An investment of Rs. 1,30,341 crore has been made in SEZs.